

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) met with students and faculty today to highlight \$97,000 in congressionally-directed funding he secured to enhance science programs and classroom technology at Herkimer County Community College (HCCC).

“It is an honor to bring tax dollars back home to invest in world-class education that will build our workforce and strengthen our already top-notch educational facilities here in the Mohawk Valley,” **Arcuri said**. “We all know that in the new global economy, science and technology are key components of economic development. An educated workforce is the backbone of our region, and this funding will help Herkimer County Community College continue to train and educate the next generation of innovators.”

“The financial support Congressman Arcuri has secured for science equipment and laboratory renovations at Herkimer County Community College will have a tremendous impact on our students’ hands-on learning experiences and professional preparations not only today, but well into the future,” **said Dr. Ronald F. Williams, President, Herkimer County Community College**. “As we focus on updating and expanding the science facilities, we are extremely grateful for Congressman Arcuri’s partnership with us to accomplish this very important goal.”

As a result of recent growth and upcoming re-accreditation from the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges, HCCC faces a greater demand for expanded and updated facilities. Funding secured by Arcuri will enable HCCC to make necessary improvements to its science facilities.

Federal funds will be used to renovate equipment in four existing laboratories and preparatory areas, as well as provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure a teaching and learning environment that can utilize current technology, provide access for students with disabilities and provide required protection from hazardous materials.

Funding for HCCC was not included in the original House passed appropriations legislation. However, Arcuri was able to successfully work with his colleagues to ensure this critical funding made it into the final legislation.

In the fall 2007 semester 3,328 students, 2,128 full-time and 1200 part-time, enrolled at HCCC. HCCC offers majors in Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic (AAS), Physical Education (AS) Science (AS) and Physical Therapist Assistant (AAS). All students at HCCC preparing for their AS or AA degrees are required to take a science lab course.

Herkimer County Community College, a unit of the State University of New York system, provides educational opportunities, both on-campus and online, to students with a variety of backgrounds and interests. Upon graduation from one of HCCC's academic degree and certificate programs, students easily transfer to all SUNY institutions and independent colleges and universities throughout the United States.

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